
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL.

1 WHEREAS, in order to protect the population of Hawaiian
2 monk seals (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*), it is necessary to limit
3 human interaction with them; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the world's most
6 critically endangered species of marine mammal; and
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8 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
9 Administration has reported that a number of habituated seals
10 have become a serious safety risk to humans, or suffered
11 injuries as a result of human infringement and interaction; and
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13 WHEREAS, other harmful human interactions have reportedly
14 occurred when Hawaiian monk seals were fed by people; and
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16 WHEREAS, when the seal becomes focused on the source of
17 food, the seal may begin to beg for the food more aggressively;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals have sustained injury from
21 boat propellers or ingestion of fishing hooks as they attempt to
22 access human food sources near boats and docks; and
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24 WHEREAS, in most cases, once a Hawaiian monk seal has been
25 socialized to interact with humans, there are few options to
26 extinguish this behavior; and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the
29 Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act,
30 which make it illegal under federal law to harass Hawaiian monk
31 seals, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



1 encourages people to stay a safe distance away from Hawaiian
2 monk seals; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
6 that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is
7 urged to prohibit individuals from approaching within fifty feet
8 of a Hawaiian monk seal, except for a licensed professional that
9 is qualified to provide aid to the Hawaiian monk seal, such as
10 first responders and veterinarians; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce
14 for Oceans and Atmosphere for the Department of Commerce in the
15 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Chairperson
16 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

